

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over JP 10-053010 (“JP ‘010”) in view of Yoshikawa et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,872,932).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicants previously submitted the Declaration of Mr. Yoshikawa on October 3, 2005. The Declaration demonstrates the unexpectedly superior results of the presently claimed invention over the prior art and thus further supports the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

Specifically, in the Declaration, Comparative Example I according to JP ‘010, i.e., the closest prior art example, was included and compared with the examples according to the present invention. As discussed at page 8 of the Remark section of the Amendment filed on October 3, 2005, the examples according to the present invention were unexpectedly superior to Comparative Example 1 at least in terms of vibration riding comfort.

Neither JP ‘010 nor Yoshikawa et al disclose or suggest this feature.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not obvious over the cited reference, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/960,345

Attorney Docket Q65935

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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